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HALIFAX

metro

Thursday, February 2,
2012

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News worth
sharing.

Transit strike on for Halifax

► Union and municipality negotiate into early morning in attempt to hammer out deal ► Negotiating isn't getting everything you want: Mayor ► Metro Transit given options to avoid strike: Union president



► Bus driver Allan Lumsden makes a strike sign at the Amalgamated Transit Union office in Dartmouth on Wednesday afternoon.



**ALEX
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Transit riders have awoken to Halifax's first transit strike in 14 years.

Metro Transit and the union representing over 700 transit workers made a last-ditch effort to avoid a strike into the early hours of Thursday.

In the end, though, it proved for naught.

Just before 2 a.m., Ken Wilson, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 508, said they had rejected HRM's latest offer.

Municipal negotiators called the union back to the table around 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, 30 minutes before they were to go on the picket line.

Union representatives arrived at the Holiday Inn Harbourview just after midnight as the strike was put on hold.

Within 10 minutes, the union left the negotiating room to mull over Metro Transit's latest final offer. Wilson offered no comment at that time.

Shortly afterwards, Metro Transit director Eddie Robar and the municipal negotiating team fol-

lowed.

The situation looked bleak Wednesday evening. The two sides met briefly around 6 p.m., but union representatives stormed out after only about 10 minutes.

"We gave them solutions to avoid this," said Wilson after leaving the negotiating room.

"The problem is they just don't understand it. They don't understand the business."

At issue is the ability for transit workers to pick their own shifts based on seniority. Along with contracting out services and hiring part-time workers, scheduling was one of three main sticking points for the union.

Robar said that while the municipality was willing to budge on the first two, the scheduling issue was a deal breaker.

"We struggle on a daily basis to put service out on the road because of the erratic way they pick their work," Robar said.

Robar could point to one week "five, six months ago" when the issue came up "four or five times" — although he said Metro Transit dealt with the issue every day.

More coverage {page 3}

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'This day has been momentous'

► Viola Desmond the third African Nova Scotian in three years to be featured on a Canada Post stamp



ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

Wanda Robson says she never truly understood her sister's significance until she started telling her story to university classes throughout the province in her early 1970s.

Her sister, Viola Desmond, was wrongfully jailed and fined for sitting in the whites-only section of the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow in 1946.

Desmond's protest set in motion a political movement that led to the end of segregation in Nova Scotia.

"The more I told the story, the more inside it touched me," Robson told a crowd of about 75 at the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia in Cherrybrook on Wednesday evening.

The 85-year-old was one of many who attended the

"Today, we add Viola Desmond to the long line of distinguished figures who have been immortalized on a Canadian postage stamp."

MAYANN FRANCIS,
LT.-GOV. OF NOVA SCOTIA

unveiling of a new commemorative Canada Post stamp that features Desmond's portrait.

Robson, who graduated from the University of Cape Breton at age 77, sparked cheers, applause and even a few laughs from the audience as she told stories of her sister during an impromptu speech.

"This day has been momentous. I will never forget it," said Robson just a few metres from a floor-to-ceiling banner of her sister.

Percy Paris, minister of



► Wanda Robson, right, reacts after unveiling a new stamp honouring her sister, the late Viola Desmond, at a ceremony at the Black Cultural Centre in Cherry Brook on Wednesday night.

African-Nova Scotia Affairs, told the crowd that Desmond "didn't set out to be a hero."

"But she taught us an important lesson ... that it

is always right to say 'no' to injustice," he said. "She was a talented entrepreneur, and truly a person ahead of her time." At least one speaker

noted that Desmond's act came well before Rosa Parks' stance on an Alabama bus in 1955.

In 2010, the province publicly apologized to

Desmond's family and issued the country's first posthumously-granted free pardon, which also recognized her wrongful conviction.

Student protesters break it down for Dexter

About 1,000 people bombarded the streets of downtown Halifax Wednesday for what was part protest, part dance party for lower tuition fees.

It was the region's version of the Canadian Federation of Students' National Day of Action, and few ears in the area could escape the sound of the crowd's powerful cheers.

Students gathered in Victoria Park at 1 p.m., and after hearing from a few speakers, began marching

down Spring Garden Road towards Province House before arriving at NSCAD's Granville campus.

Car horns could vaguely be heard over top constant communal chants.

Most sported warm, rain-resistant attire, and many others wore gladiator-like war paint.

Gabe Hoogers, president of the students' union at the University of King's College, was leading the pack of feisty protesters.

"We recognize the threat



► Students in downtown Halifax on Wednesday during the National Student Day of Action.

"Liar, liar, pants on fire! You said fees would go no higher!"

STUDENT CHANT AT WEDNESDAY'S RALLY TOWARDS PREMIER DARRELL DEXTER

that our post-secondary education is under right now," he said. "We're out here in solidarity ... to show the current government that we need to see them step up to the plate."

The provincial govern-

ment recently announced a three per cent funding cut for universities, which has led to a three per cent increase in tuition fees for students in 2012-13, the federation states.

That doesn't resonate with fourth-year NSCAD student Katie Hagan, who's school is already facing financial perils.

"I owe over \$30,000. I'm an out of province student, so I pay more already," the Ontario native said.

ALY THOMSON

Water employees a step closer to strike

Unionized employees with the Halifax Regional Water Commission have rejected an offer from their employer and are in a legal strike position.

Representatives of the Canadian Union of Public

Employees say members voted against the employer's wage offer, claiming it is well below rates in the municipal sector in other parts of the province.

The 225 water and waste water employees

400The number of employees Halifax Water provides for water, fire protection, waste water and storm water services.

voted 94 per cent in favour of job action in strike votes last November.

They could walk off the job after giving the commission 48 hours notice.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Marine Atlantic agreement reached

A tentative contract agreement has been reached between Marine Atlantic and its unlicensed personnel, consisting of about 550 members.

A meeting was scheduled for Wednesday night to explain the details of the contract to members and begin the ratification process. CAPE BRETON POST

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CHEVROLET

Groundhog readies for big day

The province's famous groundhog is getting ready for special guests this week.

Shubenacadie Sam will be encouraged to emerge from his Shubenacadie Wildlife Park shelter at 8 a.m. Thursday as part of the traditional ceremony celebrating the folklore that a groundhog's behaviour on that day indicates how long winter will last.

Elementary school

students will have a chance to get a glimpse of Sam during the event, and the ceremony will feature a proclamation by a town crier. The event will also offer bagpipe music, refreshments and a photo opportunity with Sam. **TRURO DAILY NEWS**

event, and the ceremony will feature a proclamation by a town crier. The event will also offer bagpipe music, refreshments and a photo opportunity with Sam. **TRURO DAILY NEWS**

Another St. Pat's for sale in Halifax?

► Former high school on prime downtown real estate ► Building costs school board about \$500,000 a year to operate



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

Another St. Patrick's school may be on the selling block — the former high school on Quinpool Road.

The grey, drab building opened in 1955, and the last students graduated in June 2007.

"It is our intention at some point in the future to declare the building surplus, possibly as early as the end of the current school year," Doug Hadley, Halifax Regional School Board spokesman, said in an email.

After that, it would take about six months to transfer ownership to HRM, which will determine what to do with the

Jennifer Watts

Coun. Jennifer Watts said she'd like to see a residential component to any development at the site, including affordable housing.

school. By then, the new policy on selling surplus schools will likely be in place.

"It better," said Coun. Dawn Sloane, who recently went on a rampage over the lack of community consultation regarding the sale of St. Patrick's-Alexandra school property.

Coun. Jennifer Watts said residents who currently use the former high school are concerned about what will happen to the property,

and it's something she's been keeping a close eye on since she was elected.

The school board runs several programs at St. Patrick's including the Halifax All-City Music program, Youth Pathways and Transitions, and a record-management project. Community groups also regularly rent rooms and the gymnasium.

"We need to find a new home for these programs before we vacate the property," Hadley said.

With enrolment declining, the school board is

tightening its budget and exploring whether the high cost of operating the building is worth it.

Watts said she'll hold her own public meeting as soon as there's some-

thing to talk about.

"I think it's very important that the community at the very least understands what the process is and what's transpiring with this," she said.



► Pedestrians walk past the former St. Patrick's high school on Quinpool Road on Wednesday.

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Accident.



► No one was hurt when a municipal salt truck plowed through the front section of a home in Trenton, Pictou County, Wednesday morning. Police say the plow was going downhill during a snowfall and slid into the home.

NEW GLASGOW NEWS

Truck plows into Trenton home

Man roughed up in home invasion

► Police say victims thought two suspects were armed, but no weapons were actually seen

A man that Halifax police say is known in the Sambro community as a gun enthusiast has been violently assaulted and robbed.

At about 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, police were called to a residence on Francis Gray Drive in Sambro.

A man and woman told police that two men forced their way into their home, said spokeswoman Const. Kathryn Willett.

"The suspects knocked on the door and when the victim opened the door, they forced their way into the home," she said.

Suspects

► Police describe both suspects as men in their mid-20s, about five-foot-10. They were wearing black tops and ski masks.

Willett said the couple was restrained while the suspects scanned the home for firearms.

"But we're not going to be releasing (how they were restrained) just because it may speak to any type of evidence that's collected between now and hopefully when charges

are laid," she said.

The man was assaulted during the incident and was treated at the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. The woman was threatened, Willett said, but not injured.

The man's right eye was cut and badly bruised, although police would not confirm his injuries.

Willett said the suspects made off with some guns.

"But we can't release what type of firearms and we can't release how many firearms at this time," she said.

● ALY THOMSON

Muskrat Falls is cheapest energy option: Report

A report by Manitoba Hydro International concludes that the proposed Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project in Labrador is the cheapest option to meet the province's future energy needs, but it warns of changing conditions that could throw off key calculations.

The review was commissioned by Newfoundland and Labrador's

Public Utilities Board to assess documentation from Crown corporation Nalcor Energy.

Nalcor and Nova Scotia private utility Emera are hammering out a deal to jointly fund the \$6.2-billion project that would bring power from Labrador to Newfoundland and then Nova Scotia.

Manitoba specialists in risk analysis and thermal generation have concluded that the Labrador link is a cheap energy option than alternatives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Congregation looking to rebuild church

Members of a Cape Breton church say they want to rebuild the structure after it burned to the ground in December.

Members of the congregation at Lake Ainslie Presbyterian Church have voted to rebuild the 129-year-old building.

Elder Clifford Collins says they will use a settlement from their insurance company to rebuild.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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F-f-frosty. Europe



► An elderly couple brave the bitter cold as they walk alongside the Moscow River on Wednesday. Temperatures in the area fell to -21 C.

MIKHAIL METZEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Europe battles cold spell

Rescue helicopters evacuated dozens of people from snow-blocked villages in Serbia and Bosnia, and airlifted in emergency food and medicine as a severe cold spell kept Eastern Europe in its icy grip.

UN considers plans as Syrian uprising flares

► Member countries struggles to overcome Russia's opposition to drafting Syria resolution

LOCAL COORDINATION COMMITTEES IN SYRIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian troops battled army defectors in a string of towns in the mountains overlooking Damascus on Wednesday in a new assault to crush rebellious areas around the capital, activists said.

The battles in a mountain valley came after regime forces succeeded in largely retaking control of suburbs on the eastern side of the city in an offensive the past week that fueled some of the bloodiest days of the nearly 11-month-old uprising. More than 30 people were killed around the country Wednesday, activists said.

Activists say President Bashar Assad's forces have intensified their crack-down in hopes of silencing protesters and the army dissidents who have joined them as the United Nations Security Council debates a draft resolution demanding that Assad step down.



► Anti-Syrian regime protesters hold a caricature of Syrian President Bashar Assad's father during a demonstration.

On Tuesday, Western powers and Arab countries at the U.N. sought to overcome Russia's opposition to the measure. Addressing the Security Council, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton tried to allay Moscow's concerns that the resolution could open the door to eventual military intervention in Syria, as took place in Libya last year.

"I know that some members here may be

concerned that the Security Council is headed toward another Libya," she said. "That is a false analogy."

"It is time for the international community to put aside our own differences and send a clear message of support to the people of Syria," Clinton said.

Russia has stood by Assad as he tries to crush an uprising that began last March. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Oil from Concordia cruise ship spreads through Italy's waters

► Activists fear leaking fuel will harm marine life ► Officials identify 17th body

A thin film of oil spread from the Costa Concordia cruise ship as waves battered the wreckage off Italy's coast Wednesday, adding to fears of an environmental disaster in the area's sensitive, pristine waters. Authorities were trying to assess how serious and extensive the spread was, but said that so far it didn't appear alarming.

Italian authorities also identified a German woman, Siglinde Stumpf, as being among those killed in the Jan. 13 capsizing of the vessel. Stumpf is the 17th person whose body has been identified. Fifteen others are listed as missing.

The search for the miss-

ing has been hampered by rough seas, with emergency officials ending the search in the submerged part of the ship due to the danger to rescue workers.

A large crack also appeared Wednesday between two glass panels that formed part of the roof of the massive ship.

The oil film was spreading from a separate part of the ship, apparently the stern.

The ship contains about 500,000 gallons of heavy fuel and other pollutants, and fears have grown that those chemicals could damage an environment that is home to dolphins, whales and other marine life.

Authorities are hoping

► The grounded cruise ship Costa Concordia lies on its side off the Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy.



PIER PAOLO CITO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

to pump fuel from the ship, but due to bad weather the effort was being suspended again Wednesday.

Floating barriers placed

around the ship to protect the water were lifted by winds, allowing the oily film from the ship to spread throughout the bay. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Soccer. Clash



► Players from the Egyptian Al-Ahly club run for safety during clashes following their soccer match against Al-Masry at the soccer stadium in Port Said, Egypt, Wednesday. Dozens of Egyptians were killed in the riot.

AHMED HASSAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soccer riot claims dozens of lives

At least 74 people were killed and hundreds injured in Egypt soccer fans rushed the field following an upset victory by the home team, Al-Masry, over its top club, Al-Ahly, setting off clashes and a stampede as riot police largely failed to intervene.

Ferry sinks off Papua New Guinea

Rescue crews have saved 28 people from the water off Papua New Guinea's northeast coast after a ferry sank Thursday with as many as 350 people on board, offi-

cials said.

The MV Rabaul Queen went down when travelling between the coastal towns of Lae and Kimbe after it sent a distress signal early Thursday. PNG's National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA) said.

Rescue co-ordinator Capt. Nurur Rahman said four merchant ships were

diverted to the scene by Australian authorities to help with the rescue.

Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard said there were 350 people aboard and that Australia was providing assistance to its near neighbour, without elaborating on that help. "This is obviously a major tragedy," she said. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Super Bowl. Fanatic



► The New England Patriots will face the New York Giants in Super Bowl XLVI on Feb. 5.

Super Bowl countdown begins

Brian Alano adjusts a piece in his Lego-scaled replica of Lucas Oil Stadium. The work was on display at the Super Bowl XLVI media centre in Indianapolis on Wednesday. Alano spent three years and used over 30,000 pieces to build the model.

Senator withdraws controversial words

► Tory Boisvenu apologizes for suggesting killers be given rope so that they could consider suicide

A Conservative senator backed away from an unconventional proposal Wednesday for reducing prison costs: give serial murderers a rope and let them decide whether to hang themselves.

"Basically, every killer should (have) the right to his own rope in his cell. They can decide whether to live," Sen. Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu said, referring to people who "had no hope of rehabilitation."



► Sen. Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu

The comment about hanging came on the same day an awareness campaign was launched on youth

mental health. There have also been a number of recent, high-profile prison suicides in Quebec.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper distanced himself from the remarks, but said he understood Boisvenu's feelings. Boisvenu became a victims'-rights advocate after his daughter was kidnapped, raped and murdered in 2002. Harper appointed him to the Senate two years ago.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian woman faces charges in Gadhafi plot

Cynthia Vanier, a mediator from Mount Forest, Ont., has been formally charged in a plot to allegedly smuggle Moammar Gadhafi's son into that country by arranging secret flights and falsifying passports.

Charges have also been laid on two Mexicans and a Danish suspect.

"Her situation has changed, she is no longer detained pending charges, there has now been an arrest warrant," Veronica Gil, a spokeswoman with the state's attorney's office, told The Canadian Press. "We have established formal charges."

The charges include attempted human trafficking, falsifying documents and organized crime.

The arrests, announced during a news conference in Mexico, stem from an investigation officials said began in 2009 over the

Family Outcry

Vanier's parents denied the allegations against their daughter, and expressed frustration over the Canadian government's lack of involvement.

► Vanier's parents say that their daughter is terrified. She has no medication and that the cell has no running water.

► A spokesman for Foreign Affairs said Canada would continue to interact with Mexican authorities on Vanier's behalf "as required," especially to ensure that her medical concerns are addressed.

theft of 4,586 blank Mexican passports.

Prosecutors allege the accused tried to sneak Gadhafi and his family into the country, renting an

airplane to fly them to Mexico. The attempt was foiled, they say, because the pilots refused to land secretly.

The ring, purportedly led by Vanier, then allegedly made arrangements for a second attempt, hiring pilots and a plane. But Mexican authorities were tipped off to the scheme and arrested the four suspects in November. All four had been held without charges for nearly three months.

Up until they were detained, authorities said, the group worked toward their goal of smuggling the family to Mexico, falsifying documents, obtaining credit and buying a home in Bahia de Banderas in the Nayarit area, where the Gadhafis were to hide out, as well as another apartment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Hitman's roots traced

Long before bouncing off a turnbuckle or delivering a body-slam, ancestors of one of professional wrestling's most notorious families travelled much of the known world.

That's according to

researchers with National Geographic's Genographic Project, who recently acquired and analyzed a sample of DNA provided by Bret Hart.

"It pretty much goes back to the beginning of time," he told Metro. "When you understand the dynamics of it, it's really interesting stuff."

Leading researcher Dr. Spencer Wells said the project aims to answer an almost philosophical question — where do we all come from?

In the Hart instance, Bret says analysis suggests his ancestors can be linked to areas like India, Iran and much of Europe.

● METRO

Officer 'terrified' over Robert Pickton trial, feared being made scapegoat

The first officer in charge of investigating Vancouver's missing women says she wrote a book about the investigation because she was terrified she would be the scapegoat in the botched Robert Pickton investigation.

On Wednesday, Det. Const. Lori Shenher told the inquiry looking into the investigation of the serial killer she wanted to write her story the way she remembered it and with her view on what she thought were police missteps.

"At the time that the search began of Mr. Pick-

"I wanted to write my story. And as I said, I was terrified I was going to wear that (label) because I didn't feel that was fair or right."

LORI SHENHER, FORMER RCMP OFFICER

ton's property, I was quite frankly terrified that I was going to be made a scapegoat in this, whatever information was going to come out about our activities with respect to Mr. Pickton."

Shenher, who said she identifies herself more as a writer than a police officer, testified she didn't think blaming her for the mistakes would be fair.

When some of the family members of Pickton's victims learned of the book in 2003, they complained of being betrayed, but the book was never published.

Under questioning from lawyer Cameron Ward, who represents several families of Pickton's victims, Shenher said her team wasn't being supported by senior officials

at the Vancouver Police Department at the time of Pickton's arrest.

In the same police interview, Shenher also said she was disillusioned, burned out and wanted to get as far away as she could from the file.

Ward wondered why she would want to write a book about the investigation given those intense feelings.

"I wanted to write my story," she said. "And as I said, I was terrified I was going to wear that because I didn't feel that was fair or right."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Romney charges ahead

► Half of Florida primary voters said most important factor for them was a candidate who could defeat Obama

Mitt Romney clobbered Newt Gingrich by 14 percentage points in Florida's Republican primary vote and moves on to the next state, Nevada, with a fat campaign bankroll and a renewed sense that he is the inevitable challenger to President Barack Obama in November.

Romney spoke as though he was the presumptive nominee Tuesday night, de-

claring himself ready "to lead this party and our nation."

"Mr. President, you were elected to lead, you chose to follow, and now it's time to get out of the way," he said.

Obama's campaign issued a fundraising appeal Wednesday focused on the millions that Romney and his supporters have poured into negative ads.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney celebrates his Florida primary election win in Tampa.

What. Winter?



► Hundreds of cars are stranded on Lake Shore Drive in Chicago on Feb. 2, 2011, top, while traffic moves smoothly on the same stretch of road on Wednesday, one year later.

KIICHIRO SATO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A change in the weather

This time last year, Chicago was covered in snow following a winter blizzard of historic proportions, stranding hundreds of drivers for up to 12 hours overnight on the city's main thoroughfare and giving many city schoolchildren their first-ever snow day.

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Public pensions prevent poverty: Research

- PM says OAS/GIC pension system needs overhaul
- Collection age could rise from 65 to 67 to cut costs

Research prepared for the federal government in 2009 shows that the old-age benefits cited by Stephen Harper as perhaps unsustainable are a key factor keeping seniors out of poverty.

The paper, titled Evaluation of the Old Age Security Program, shows that without Old Age Security or the Guaranteed Income Supplement, more than a third of women and more than a quarter of men in their 60s would fall below the poverty

line. "The OAS programs have a significant influence on the incidence of low income," the report's author, Richard Shillington, wrote.

The benefits are most important in the Maritimes and the North. "The OAS/GIS makes a huge contribution to the reduction of poverty in old age," said Andrew Jackson, chief economist for the labour congress.

Prime Minister Harper announced last week that

the public pension system is fiscally unsustainable, with costs expected to rise to \$108 billion in 2030 from \$41 billion this year.

Cutting costs will likely include raising the collection age. The presumption, said Jackson, is that people will work for an extra two years. "That is possible for some, but many older workers in their 60s are in ill health or are engaged in providing care for others."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OAS/GIC stats

- About 98 per cent of Canadians are eligible for OAS when they turn 65. To get the GIS top-up for low-income seniors, they must first qualify for OAS.
- Research shows that OAS and GIS improve an average senior's standard of living by about \$7,000 a year.
- For seniors with "modest" incomes, OAS and GIS accounts for 70 per cent of their incomes.

Name. Game



► A Target Apparel store is shown in the Rainbow Centre in Sudbury last January.

GINO DONATO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nothing fair-weather for Target

American chain Target Corp. has reached a deal with Fairweather Ltd. under which the Canadian fashion retailer has agreed to stop using the Target name.

Facebook's IPO pokes Wall Street's elite

Facebook made a much-anticipated status update Wednesday: The Internet social network is going public eight years after its computer-hacking CEO Mark Zuckerberg started the service at Harvard University.

That means anyone with the right amount of cash will be able to own part of a Silicon Valley icon that quickly transformed from dorm-room startup to cultural touchstone.

If its initial public offering makes enough friends on Wall Street, Facebook will probably make its stock-market debut in three or four months as one of the world's most valuable companies. In its regulatory filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Facebook Inc. indicated it hopes to raise \$5 billion U.S.

That would be the most for an Internet IPO since Google Inc. and its early backers raised \$1.9 billion in 2004. The final amount will likely change as Facebook's bankers gauge the investor demand.

Joining corporate America's elite would give Facebook newfound financial



► Facebook is going public after eight years.

clout as it tries to become even more pervasive. It also could help Facebook fend off the challenge from Google, which is looking to solidify its status as the Internet's most powerful company with a rival social network called Plus.

The IPO filing casts a spotlight on some of Facebook's inner workings for the first time, revealing the it's revenue, major shareholders, growth opportunities and concerns about its biggest competitive threats.

What's not in there, yet, is Facebook's market value, which could hit \$100 billion, based on Facebook's rapid growth and the appraisals that steered investors who bought stakes while the company was still private. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canadian car sales accelerate with new year

Automakers saw strong Canadian sales in the opening month of 2012 with many reporting double-digit growth from a year ago and some even setting January sales records.

Overall sales grew 15.4 per cent to 97,497 vehicles last month, according to data released Wednesday from the Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada.

Sales have been boosted by persistently low inter-

est rates, buyers searching for better fuel efficiency, and those looking to replace older vehicles as the average vehicle age on Canadian roads climbs.

Chrysler Canada had its best January in a decade, Ford lost its spot as Canada's top seller but continued to gain traction, and Toyota sales jumped as supply caught up to demand. Ford Canada sales also grew, by five per cent, to 14,978 vehicles, compared with 14,324 in January 2011.

One sour spot was at General Motors, where sales dropped 10 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada leaning less on U.S.: TD

The Canadian economy appears to be on a long-term trend toward less dependence on the United States, according to a new study by TD Economics.

The study, released Wednesday, found that Canada's economic reliance on the U.S. in terms of share of exports and GDP has dropped steadily over the last decade.

For example, exports to the U.S. directly contributed an annual average of 0.5 percentage points to nominal GDP growth over the last decade. That was well below an average annual contribution of 2.3 percentage points during the 1980s and 1990s.

TD Economics says a rebound in U.S. economic growth should boost Canadian exports south of the border over the next few years.

But over the long term, the bank said Canada's economic prosperity will increasingly be driven by trade with other non-U.S. economies.

That will reinforce the trend in recent years, where Canadian economic power is shifting more and more from Central Canada to the energy and resource-rich western provinces.

The export shift also likely means future job growth in the Canadian economy will come mainly from the energy, mining and other resource industries based in Western Canada and which export more of their output to China, Japan and other international markets.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

TSX



+ 65.51
(12,517.66)

Dollar



+ 0.37¢
(100.09¢ US)

Oil



- 87¢ US
(\$97.61 US)

Natural gas

\$2.32 US
(- 18¢ US)

Gold

\$1,749.50 US
(+ \$9.10 US)

PHOTOS BY G. S. P. M. WINTERSTEIN

WikiLeaks leader uses 'last chance' in U.K. court

Julian Assange took his extradition battle to Britain's Supreme Court on Wednesday, arguing that sending him to Sweden would violate age-old legal tradition.

The two-day hearing is Assange's last chance to persuade British judges to

quash efforts to send him to Scandinavia, where he is wanted on sex crimes allegations.

Assange — who leads the WikiLeaks anti-secrecy website — was accused of rape, coercion and molestation following encounters with

two Swedish women in August 2010, shortly after his group published sensitive U.S. government documents relating to the Afghan war. He denies the allegations, claiming the sex was consensual.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SASCHA SCHUERMANN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



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WINTER, WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THE COLD SHOULDER?

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO



Dear Winter:

Please come back. I miss you.

It was cute at first, you disappeared. I thought it was for effect, maybe. You just

wanted to wait till the best moment, then, surprise! You'd show yourself when we least expected it. You flake, you.

But another week slid by.

Then I thought maybe you were making fun of all those weatherpeople who predicted a deep freeze. Stupid "media-ologists" and their TV-ready descriptions of complex systems. ("After the break, we'll tell you about tomorrow's Sleet Quasar!")

You showed them, I thought. But, then, still no sign of you.

Most recently, I thought maybe you wanted to make a point about other disappearances — manufacturing jobs, polar bears, the Toronto Maple Leafs at playoff time. These are good, important points to make. But, if that was your intention, your point has been made.

Where are you? You snapped in Edmonton a couple times, and blew through the Maritimes this week, but that's been pretty much it.

Let's have some Real Talk, OK? You're being selfish.

If you won't think of us, won't you think of the children? You're denying kids important life lessons they only learn when you're around. Like, when I was young, I learned that sledding had an elaborate social pecking order, from the kid who owned a GT Snowracer (King of the Hill) to the kid with the Crazy Carpet that was always reverting to its Fruit Roll-Up shape (Lowly Serf).

You provided me some of my only adventures growing up. In New Brunswick, we didn't have any of the most common natural disasters — hurricanes, earthquakes, Bryan Adams concerts. The only Discovery Channel doc you'd ever see filmed in my hometown is Fog Chasers.

So, craving excitement, I had to get by with delivering newspapers in blizzards or playing street hockey in -15 C weather. It's perhaps sad that I've never felt more alive.

If this is what it takes to get you back, let me say this: I'm sorry. I'm sorry I took you for granted.

You were harsh, but I realize now it was necessary. A playful pinch to the cheeks or even a cold slap is a welcome respite from the limp handshake of the muddy impostor that has taken your place.

I miss making the first scratch-scratch footprints in a park of untouched snow. I miss Arctic fog rising off the water on a frigid day. I miss your cold embrace.

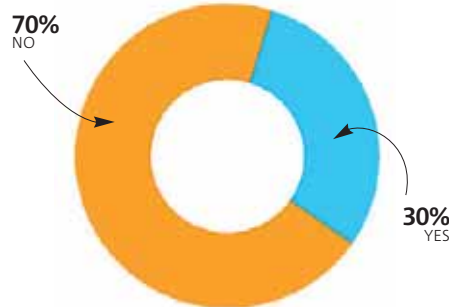
The place just isn't the same without you, Winter. Come back: my Crazy Carpet is always unrolled for you.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays



Register at
metropolitanpanel.ca
and take the quick poll

Have you ever been a victim of
cyber-bullying?

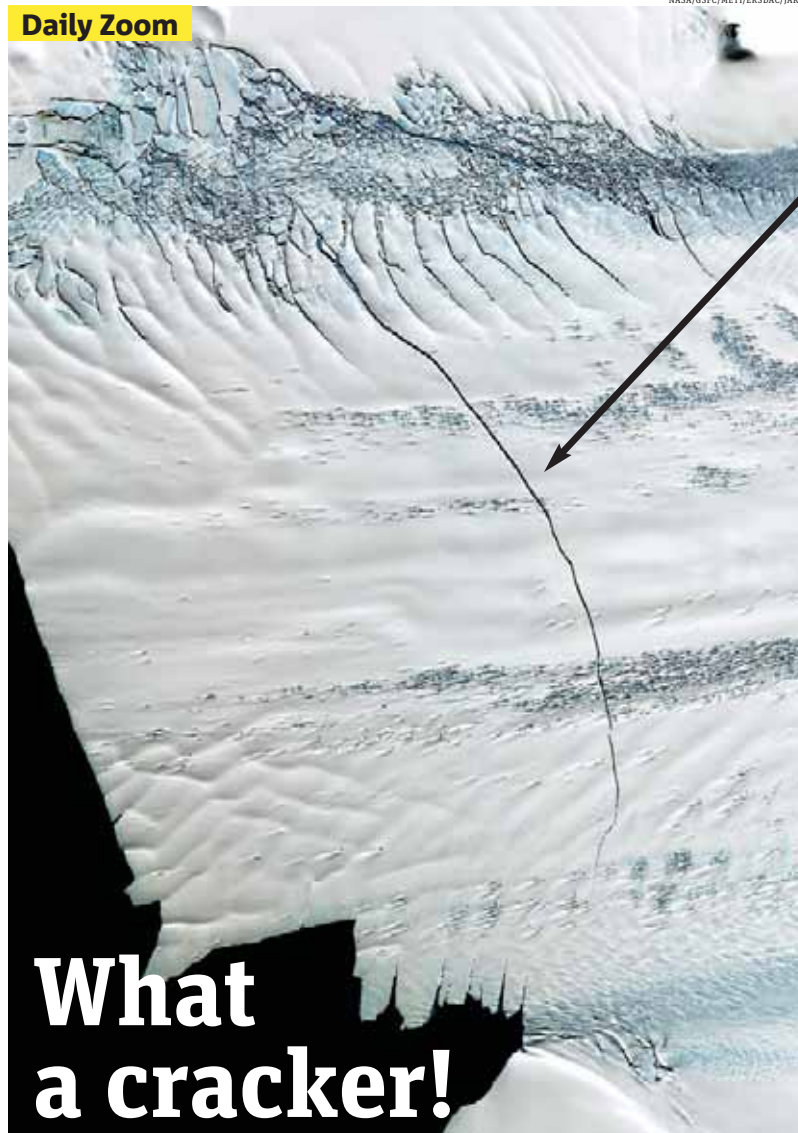


Local tweets



- **@evilpez4:** If bus strike happens, I suggest Council carpools in one vehicle. Should be easy; I've seen 40 clowns fit in a VW Beetle before. #Halifax
- **@ocj3:** its bad when your city councilors know less then twitter does about a transit strike that is a day away. Come on! #halifax #transitstrike
- **@LauraORourke:** Drives to daycare won't be nearly as fun during the #Halifax #transitstrike. I will miss my son yelling: "Bus!"
- **"More Bus!" "Another One!"**
- **@Jason_Duong:** If there was one #bus route that could be kept open in #Halifax during the transit strike, What route should it be? #1?
- **@catt_wilson:** Halifax hasn't had a transit strike in 14 years and they decide now to do it...sick #wheresmy-carwhenineedit #whoneedspublictransitanyways
- **@ErinJMeagher:** Protestor's cheers can be heard half way down Spring Garden Rd. #dayofaction #halifax

Daily Zoom



NASA/GSFC/METI/ERSDAC/JAROS

Crevice cuts ice from the north

ANTARCTICA. Nay, nay, it's not a scratch — it's a 30-kilometre-long crack that will carve an iceberg the size of New York City!

NASA has spotted a deep crevice on Pine Island Glacier, an ice stream that drains the West Antarctic Ice Sheet.

The image, taken in November 2011 but only released Wednesday, shows the crack's growth. **● MWN**

80X60

The ice crack is 80 metres wide and 60 metres deep. Measurements suggest the ice shelf in the region is about 500 metres thick, with only about 50 metres of that floating above water.

Pine Island

- The Pine Island Glacier is part of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and contains enough water to raise sea levels worldwide by more than six metres.
- Experts last year discovered warm currents are eroding ice from below, twice as fast as previously thought.

2

scene

Painting the town Purple

► Fathers of heavy metal, Deep Purple, coming to play at the Metro Centre this weekend

BACKSTAGE PASS

JENNA CENTER
METRO HALIFAX



When asked by fans if he thought 40 years ago he'd still be performing today,

Roger Glover doesn't hesitate in his reply.

"Yes, it's all going according to plan."

Though the Deep Purple bassist makes light of his bumpy journey, he is grateful for the ride.

"I feel fortunate to have been born at the time I did," he tells me over the phone. "I was in a band, living a dream and it wasn't a dream."

Branded the pioneers of heavy metal, along with Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath, Deep Purple ushered and created the soundtrack of hard rock for the 1970s.

"In the 1960s there was an explosion of music, but rock and roll had turned



► Deep Purple is touring across Canada for the first time.

Details

What you need to know about the show.

► **Tickets** Deep Purple is performing at the Halifax Metro Centre on Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$52.50 and \$72.50 and available through Ticket Atlantic.

into this sort of boring pop," Glover says. "Every generation borrows something from the previous one and works with what they have."

After a career that birthed *Smoke on the Water*, one of the most iconic songs of all time, the turn-style line-up changes and infighting led to a band

break up in 1976, which lasted nearly a decade.

Glover then made a home for himself in the producer's chair working with bands like Judas Priest, Nazareth, and creating solo albums.

"I love being part of that creative process," he says.

"It's always a challenge

to translate what could be a fairly abstract idea of a sound into reality."

Deep Purple reunited in 1984, a time where the sound seemed to simulate the politics.

"The 1980s was an age when sound was bigger than everything else. It was an expansive time and the music mimicked

that."

Today, Glover takes the stage with the same grace and gratitude as when he started.

"It's a rare thing for a musician to have this kind of career," he says.

"There's only one reason to be in this business and that's because you love it."

New Jersey



Hoboken, New Jersey, has denied a request for a spin-off of MTV's *Jersey Shore* reality show to film in the city. It is to star Nicole Snooki Polizzi and Jenni JWoww Farley. Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer says the Film Commission's decision was made based on safety and quality of life concerns for residents of the city along the Hudson River.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You should watch for it

► DC Comics announcing it will release a prequel series to the *Watchmen*



SAM
CASTONE
SCENE@METRONews.ca

A seven-part prequel series to *Watchmen*, one of the most popular graphic novels of all time, will appear this summer, according to DC Entertainment, publishers of DC Comics.

The news is sure to excite fanboys, but also dis-

gust some: Original *Watchmen* creator Alan Moore, who has long feuded with DC, is not involved with the new series and none too happy about their decision.

Instead, a pack of other star talents, including J. Michael Straczynski (The Amazing Spider-Man) and Darwyn Cooke (Cat-

woman), will write installments, each centering around a different character.

"It's our responsibility as publishers to find new ways to keep all of our characters relevant," said DC Entertainment co-publishers Dan DiDio and Jim Lee.

"After 25 years, the

Watchmen are classic characters whose time has come for new stories to be told. We sought out the best writers and artists in the industry to build on the complex mythology of the original."

The original, published in 1986 and 1987, followed a defunct batch of superheroes brought back to-



gether after the death of a colleague.



Neil Young: Steve Jobs listened to vinyl because of higher fidelity

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No mini meatball ... yet

► Calzone not in the oven for Snooki ► Translation: Pregnancy rumour is false

For a few brief, terrifying moments yesterday, we feared Snooki was pregnant.

It all started with an ugly, horrible, breakfast-ruining rumour from RadarOnline.

"She's been telling people that she has a big announcement coming," a source told the site, adding that boyfriend Jionni LaValle had been sharing the news with close family and friends.

While a photo search mercifully didn't reveal a Snooki bump, it did fail to turn up the expected number of drunk duck faces.

Finally, she made an appearance on *Opie & Anthony* to set the record straight: There will be no spawn of Snooki.

"Why are people calling me fat?" she wondered. "That's so rude!"

It is rude, Snooks. It is rude and we won't stand for it. ● MONICA WEYMOUTH



► Snooki

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Celebrity tweets



Woke up looking like the lip injection fairy visited me in the night! Is this how pregnancy face begins?! Yikes!



@JessicaSimpson



@SteveMartinToGo

PLEASE DO NOT READ IF YOU ARE EASILY HYPNOTIZED: You are feeling sleepy.

@joshgrobman



Newt's moon colony will cost us nothing. It will be paid for with moon money printed at a moon mint by a to-be-appointed moon treasurer.



@jeweljk

We have 56 calves on the ground—SO cute—ya just wanna hug them all!



► Leslie Carter

Carter sister dies

Leslie Carter — younger sister of Backstreet Boys' Nick Carter and a star of *House of Carters* — died Tuesday in New York. No details have been released regarding the cause of death.

"Our family is grieving

right now and it's a private matter. We are deeply saddened for the loss of our beloved sister, daughter, and granddaughter, Leslie Carter. We request the utmost privacy during this difficult time," her family said in a statement. ● METRO

Soul Train host Don Cornelius dead in apparent suicide

Soul Train producer and host Don Cornelius was found dead in his Los Angeles home early yesterday morning from what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Cornelius created the show in 1970, and hosted it until 1993.

"He was a true television visionary and his contributions to African American culture, music, and entertainment are incomparable. The outpouring of affection and tributes to his legacy are a true testament to the profound impact that his life's work had on many generations," said Kenard Gibbs, CEO of Soul Train Holdings, in a statement.

● METRO



► Don Cornelius

Note: Baby Gaga must be Italian

Lady Gaga is thinking about starting a family, but she has two conditions for her baby-to-be: It has to be from artificial insemination and it must be Italian, she explains in an interview with Spain's Radio Ibiza.

"I want a baby from an Italian — possibly Sicilian — donor," the singer says.

As for how things are going with her current boyfriend, Taylor Kinney — who is not Italian — Gaga says, "You know I don't talk about my love life, but I'm very happy."

● METRO



Lady Gaga

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART



- The popularity of the wide-brimmed has been bubbling on the runway for a while now
- But this winter, hats from nearly all decades have become a full-blown trend
- Here are some of our favourites

Return of the hat

(you knew it would be back)



► Alexandra Davenport, a student in London, pulls off the hat with aplomb.

AUBERGINE BORSALINO

► \$492, lockhatters.co.uk



SPORTMAX FEDORA

► \$118, my-wardrobe.com



PAUL SMITH FEDORA

► \$215, paulsmith.co.uk



EUGENIA KIM GABRIELLA RABBIT FELT FEDORA

► \$375, net-a-porter.com



TOPSHOP FLOPPY FEDORA

► \$50, topshop.com



3
life

Oscar contenders?

The most award show worthy dresses from ss12 couture week:

Armani Privé

A strapless universally flattering shape + a shimmering bandage effect = Best Dressed List Bait. Take note Jessica.



Chanel

The whimsical, fashion-forward girliness is just right for one of the more adventurous 'Hollywood Young Things' (we're talking about you, Emma Stone.)

Gambatista Valli

It's black, edgy and mysterious with sheer panels and cut-outs. A total Rooney Mara kind of dress.



Toronto Fashion Week gets new name as World MasterCard becomes sponsor.

THREE FAB HATTERS



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Q: I have laminate wood floors

throughout my small condo and would like to add an area rug to the living room, which is 10-by-14 feet. What size should I choose and what style won't make it feel cramped?

T. Fulham, Winnipeg

A ruggedly handsome space

► Karl Lohnes lays down rules for choosing an area rug

to link living room furnishings together, but to define spaces that are open to one another as well.

What size will work?

To determine the right sized area rug in a living area simply measure the width of the room then subtract two or three feet; this will give you the width of the rug needed. For instance, if your room is 10-

feet wide you will need an

eight-foot wide rug. Area rugs come in predetermined sizes; an eight-foot wide rug will be about 10-feet long. That is the size that suits your living area.

Best style of carpet
If you have printed fabrics on your furnishings or draperies then go with a discretely patterned or solid-coloured rug.

If furnishings are upholstered in plain fabrics, then

a patterned rug can help add pizzazz to the overall decor scheme.

Another idea is to take inspiration from artwork that you might have collected. For example, if you like watercolour paintings, then choose a rug that has soft, airy colours and patterns. If you collect black-and-white photography, then a solid, neutral-coloured rug will work nicely in the room.



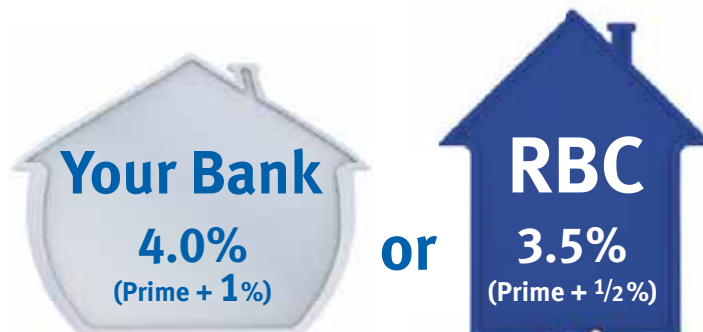
CONTRIBUTED

A. Area rugs not only help



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Delicious flavour of simplicity

► Rib roast with roasted veggies and shallot-merlot gravy makes for elegant meal ► Features pantry staples



THE CANADIAN PRESS/HO

Make a special meal for your next dinner party with this rib roast, roasted veggies and a flavourful gravy made with shallots and merlot wine.

Preparation:

- 1** In large roasting pan, arrange onions, carrots, celery, garlic, thyme and rosemary in even layer.
- 2** Season rib roast all over with salt and pepper. Place roast on top of vegetables in roasting pan. Roast in 245 C (475 F) oven 15 minutes, then reduce heat to 160 C (325 F). Roast for 2 to 2 1/2 hours or until roast reads 55 C (130 F) at the centre for medium or 50 C (120 F) for medium-rare.

- 3** Transfer roast to a serving platter and cover

with foil and keep warm. Set aside roasting pan.

- 4** **Roasted Root Vegetables:** In bowl, toss carrots, parsnips, beets and potatoes with oil, rosemary, salt and pepper. Spread evenly on 2 rimmed baking sheets. When roast comes out of oven, raise temperature to 200 C (400 F). Roast vegetables, stirring occasionally, for 30 minutes or until tender and browned.

- 5** **Shallot Merlot Gravy:** Place roasting pan over medium-high heat. Add wine to reserved roasting pan juices and scrape up any browned bits from bottom of pan. Using slotted spoon, remove and discard any solids. Add shallots, thyme, and 500 ml (2

cups) of the beef broth. Bring to simmer; cook 3 minutes.

- 6** In bowl, whisk remaining beef broth and flour. While stirring, add this mixture to roasting pan. Cook while stirring for 3 minutes. Season with salt

and pepper. Serve roasted vegetables and gravy alongside roast. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA**

Ingredients:

- 4 onions, quartered
- 4 each large carrots and celery stalks, cut into large pieces
- 1 head garlic, broken into cloves and peeled
- 4 sprigs each fresh thyme and rosemary
- 1 bone-in rib roast (5.5 to 6.3 kg/12 to 14 lb)
- Salt and black pepper

Roasted Root Vegetables

- 1 kg (2 lb) each carrots, parsnips, beets, and Yukon

- gold potatoes cut into 1-cm (1/2-inch) pieces
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) canola oil
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) chopped fresh rosemary
- 10 ml (2 tsp) salt
- 5 ml (1 tsp) black pepper

Shallot-Merlot Gravy

- 250 ml (1 cup) Merlot wine
- 2 shallots, finely diced
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) minced fresh thyme
- 750 ml (3 cups) beef broth
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) all-purpose flour
- Salt and black pepper

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Top 5: February 1st

- 5** Rihanna
You Da One
- 4** Katy Perry
The One That Got Away
- 3** Flo Rida
Good Feeling
- 2** David Guetta ft Nicki Minaj
Turn Me On
- 1** Drake
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Quoted



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Moose might be interested in Top Prospects Game

JEFF BASSETT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Halifax Mooseheads might throw their hat in the ring to host next year's Canadian Hockey League Top Prospects Game.

With a potential top-five NHL pick on their roster in Cole Harbour's Nathan MacKinnon, the annual two-day showcase of draft-eligible prospects would be a natural marketing fit at the 10,595-seat Metro Centre.

"It would be a really exciting game for our fans, and we would definitely be interested in expressing

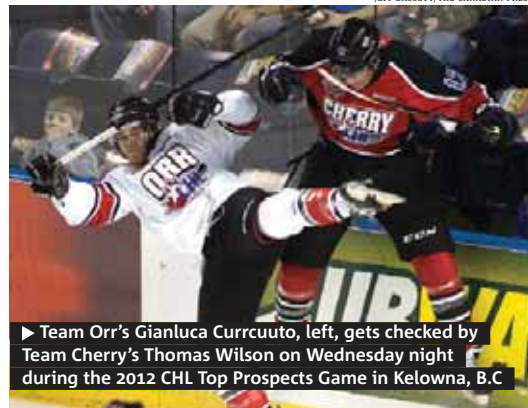
our interest when the time is right," said Mooseheads owner Bobby Smith.

CHL spokesman Paul Krotz said nothing has been decided for 2013 and that there is no "specific timeline" for selecting a host site.

Forty of the CHL's top draft-eligible prospects are selected for the event each year, with a skills competition on the first day and a game on the second day. This year's event wrapped up on Wednesday in Kelowna, B.C.

In addition to MacKinnon, the Mooseheads have two other intriguing prospects eligible for the 2013 NHL draft. Gifted left-winger Jonathan Drouin, picked second overall after MacKinnon in last June's QMJHL draft, and starting goalie Zach Fucale, taken 11th, have earned high praise from scouts.

The past five hosts have been Toronto, Windsor, Ont., Oshawa, Ont., Edmonton and Quebec City. Halifax has never hosted the event. **● MATTHEW WUEST**



► Team Orr's Gianluca Curruuto, left, gets checked by Team Cherry's Thomas Wilson on Wednesday night during the 2012 CHL Top Prospects Game in Kelowna, B.C.

Huskies go down swinging vs. Acadia

► Stellar nights for Justine Colley, Susanne Canvin aren't enough for Huskies ► Red-hot Acadia seizes sole possession of first place in AUS



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

At least the Saint Mary's Huskies know the Acadia Axewomen aren't completely untouchable.

Saint Mary's missed a chance to move into top spot in Atlantic University Sport women's basketball on Monday night at The Tower, falling 83-78 to a red-hot Acadia team that has won 11 straight and hasn't lost since its season-opener on Nov. 9.

But the Huskies showed much more fight than they did in a 23-point blowout loss on Jan. 11, and were within a basket — down 80-78 — with 29.6 seconds to go before the Axewomen finished them off.

"It's great to know that was a winnable game and they're a beatable team," said Huskies fifth-year forward Susanne Canvin, who recorded 21 points and eight rebounds. "Last time we played them, there was such a gap between us, and we thought, 'We have a lot of work to do.' But it's in our control. We can fix our mistakes and get them next game."

Justine Colley, who leads the country in scoring, had 13 rebounds and piled up 16 of her 24 points in the



► Saint Mary's Huskies guard Miguel Pink gets tangled up with Acadia Axemen guard Sean Stoqua while they dive for a loose ball during Wednesday night's AUS game at the Tower.

second half to keep the Huskies in it.

But sisters Abbey and Emma Duinker teamed up for 46 of Acadia's 83 points, with Abbey hitting for 12 in the fourth quarter alone and Emma nailing five of 10 three-point attempts.

"Ever since I've been here, we've always been called a young team, and finally we have some experience and that's really paying off," said fourth-year Acadia guard Stefanie

Men's hoops

In AUS men's basketball action on Wednesday at the Tower, sixth-place Saint Mary's (6-8) lost a 76-75 squeaker to second-place Acadia (8-4).

Chapman, a St. Margarets Bay native who had 12 points, seven assists and four steals. "We've learned how to win."

The Huskies (10-4) are

second overall, just two points behind the Axewomen. The two teams meet again next Wednesday in Wolfville and one more time on Feb. 22 in Halifax as things start to ramp up for AUS championship weekend starting March 2 in Antigonish.

"We have something really special going on," Canvin said. "I'm excited to see us go to the AUS (championship) and do some damage."

Sports in brief



SMU's Pridham earns top weekly honour

CIS HOCKEY. A seven-point week has landed Saint Mary's Huskies men's hockey forward Colby Pridham athlete-of-the-week honours from Canadian Interuniversity Sport. The former Halifax Mooseheads star had four goals and three assists to help the second-place Huskies to a pair of wins. **● METRO**

NHL legends Halifax bound

HOCKEY. New York Islanders greats Billy Smith and Bryan Trottier, as well former Calgary Flames star Theoren Fleury, will be among the retired NHLers playing in the Oldtimers' Hockey Challenge on Monday at the Metro Centre. The team will take on a squad of Halifax Regional Police officers starting at 7 p.m. **● METRO**

No Leafs collapse this time

► Reimer posts shutout as Toronto edges Pittsburgh ► MacArthur scores game's only goal



It didn't take the Toronto Maple Leafs long to make amends for their biggest collapse of the season.

James Reimer stopped all 25 shots he faced and Clarke MacArthur scored in the third period as the Maple Leafs edged the Pittsburgh Penguins 1-0 on Wednesday.

The game was low on style points, but that mattered little to a Leafs team only concerned with adding points in the Eastern Conference standings. They had squandered one of those a night earlier in Pittsburgh, where the Penguins erased a 4-1 deficit in the third period before pulling out a 5-4 shootout win.

It looked like another overtime period would be necessary on Wednesday until MacArthur took a pass from Mikhail Grabovski and deked around Brent Johnson at 13:55.

That was the only offence Toronto would need



► Clarke MacArthur sends a shot narrowly wide of Penguins goaltender Brent Johnson's net.

to improve its record to 26-19-6.

Pittsburgh fell to 29-18-4 after being shut out for just the second time this season.

Reimer was starting for just the second time in 14 games and spoke earlier in the day of wanting to regain the form that had slotted him as the team's No. 1 goalie entering the season. He made a good case for himself by registering his

first shutout since opening night against Montreal back in October.

It was also a rare appearance for Johnson, who gave Marc-Andre Fleury a rest for just the second time in 19 games.

The game featured decidedly less energy than the teams displayed 24 hours earlier in Pittsburgh, when both coaches were left with some defensive concerns. The players clearly received

the message.

Even with NHL scoring leader Evgeni Malkin on the ice, there were very few quality scoring chances at either end.

Pittsburgh did manage to get a puck over the goal-line early in the second period, but that goal was turned back because Chris Kunitz was ruled to have kicked it in. The Penguins generated more of the offence in the middle period,

but Reimer kept it scoreless by denying Malkin twice from the side of the net.

Each team had a power play early in the third period but couldn't break through. The closest Pittsburgh came was a James Neal shot that rang off the post.

MacArthur's 16th goal of the season eventually broke the deadlock and helped the Leafs remain in playoff position. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



► Ahmad Bradshaw of the Giants speaks with media in Indianapolis on Tuesday.

Giants get some good injury news

The New York Giants had perfect attendance for their first Super Bowl practice in Indiana.

Running back Ahmad Bradshaw, linebacker Jacquian Williams and receiver Hakeem Nicks all worked on a limited basis Wednesday at the University of Indianapolis.

"This was a good, spirited, up-tempo practice," coach Tom Coughlin said. "We want to be better tomorrow and build to our best work on Friday."

Bradshaw, who has been restricted to one practice a week with a broken bone in his right foot, was a surprise participant as Coughlin said earlier in the day he would not participate.

Williams injured his right foot against the 49ers. Nicks also hurt a shoulder in the NFC title game.

Defensive end Osi Umenyiora (ankle/knee) and cornerback Corey Webster (hamstring) also were limited.

It seemed the Giants were eager to get back out on the field. They were boisterous after the pre-practice stretch and ran from drill to drill.

"I saw that," said Coughlin. "They've been excited about getting back to work for the first time in a few days." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Brewers outfielder takes to the ice with Sharks

On his fourth attempt during a hockey breakaway drill, Nyjer Morgan shot the puck past Sharks goalie Thomas Greiss to score in the bottom right corner of the net. Greiss did the Milwaukee Brewers outfielder a favour and let it go in, with Morgan later thanking him with a firm pat to the chest pad.

A giddy Morgan cheered, thrust his stick in the air and became a bit wobbly on the ice before recovering.

When asked about it after his outing Wednesday, he became defensive.

"But how many athletes

First love

Morgan grew up playing hockey and appeared in seven games with the Regina Pats.

do you know who can just jump on the ice and do what I just did? Exactly," Morgan said. "Pretty cool, huh? It's been many moons, it's been a lot of years, yeah. And I've still got it, you see that?"

At last, the diehard San Jose fan and former hockey player got the chance to practise with the team

he loves.

"Tony Plush," as he refers to himself, stepped out for the first time 36 minutes into the hour-long session sporting a Sharks jersey with "Plush" on back.

Morgan's first three shots on goal were easily stopped by Greiss, who eased up on the last attempt.

"He just came down with a nice shot and put it in," Greiss said. "He skates really well. He's said he likes to get on his skates and have fun. You could see that." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



► Nyjer Morgan, right, shakes hands with former San Jose Sharks player Mike Ricci.

Super Bowl notes

Rob Gronkowski, still sidelined by a high left-ankle sprain, hasn't practised with the New England Patriots this week.

► "He's day to day," coach Bill Belichick said after Wednesday's practice.

► Giants defensive end Osi Umenyiora was fined \$20,000 US by the NFL for missing a mandatory media session Wednesday.

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Spiritual

Oh most beautiful flower of Mt Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Haven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin assist me in this my necessity.
Oh Star of the Sea help me and show me here you are my Mother.
Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God Queen of Haven and Earth.
I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power.
Oh show me herein you are my Mother.
Oh Mary Conceived Without Sin pray for us who have recourse to the (3 times).
Holy Mother I place this cause in your hands (3times).
Sweet Mother I place this cause in your hands (3 times).
Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads, so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me.
I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as I confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you or your mercy towards me and mine.
Amen.
The prayer must be said 3 consecutive days.
Thank you, CL

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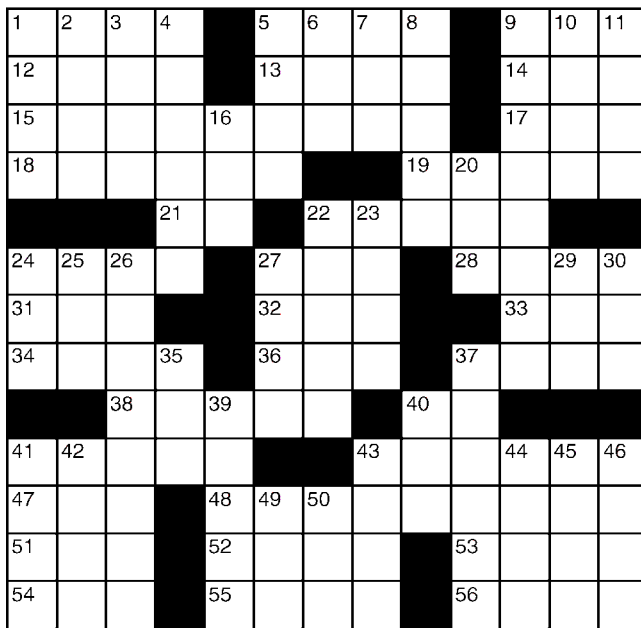
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Crossword

Across

- 1 Close
5 Sidewalk eatery
9 Eccentric
12 Volcanic outflow
13 "Caro nome" is one
14 Ultra-modernist
15 Comic's specialty
17 Right angle
18 Book after Job
19 iPhone function
21 Chance, for short
22 Hue
24 Presentation
27 Second person
28 Out of control
31 Charged bit
32 Pismire
33 Ram's mate
34 Profound
36 In medias —
37 Seaport of Yemen
38 Exciting
40 Commercial
41 Search for prey
43 Plant life treatises
47 Rowing need
48 Getting the jump on
51 USO audience
52 Trumpet
53 Chinese gang
54 Praise in verse
55 Dumbstruck
56 Remain
- Down**
1 Feed the hogs
2 — Christian Andersen
3 Eye layer
4 Candle fat
5 Trash containers
6 "All the Things You —"
7 Evergreen type
8 Supporter of the arts?
9 — bandit (slot machine)
10 Sandwich shop
11 Action figure, really
16 Mischievous kid
20 Kiwi's extinct cousin
22 — Island
23 Inning trio
24 Rocker Vicious
25 Weeding tool
26 Small town description



- 27 Play area
29 Have bills
30 Barbie's companion
35 Parishioner's seat
37 Takes as one's own
39 Island greeting
40 Matterhorn, for one
41 Comic strip possum
42 Incursion
43 Money supply
44 Laugh-a-minute
45 "— Karenina"
46 Like custard or quiche

► Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

► Yesterday's answer



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AS

*The Muscle Man,
You stimulate me with your metal wires and I send you my M-wave. Oh what an image your sweet arteries have left on my heart. Come and get another balloon?*
KINETICALLY YOURS, OXYGEN

*Mushroommelt,
Your mushroomness brightens my day, and there isn't enough mushroom melts to make the world go round in my opinion! I miss bussing to school with you and head bobbing on the way home, change your school schedule so mushroom and tuna melts can rule the world again. P.S check your sugars.*
TUNAMELT

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20

No matter how difficult a situation may be, you are smart enough to find a solution and apply it.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21

Some of the things a loved one says may annoy you today but there is no point getting annoyed.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21

Wherever you've been held back in recent weeks is where you'll make progress over the next few days.

♋ **Cancer June 22-July 22** If you make an effort to look beyond everyday issues, you will discover something that has the potential to transform your life.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23

The best way to deal with changing circumstances is to adapt yourself. Try moving with the times.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22

Someone will come to your aid today. Don't turn down his or her offer of assistance just because you don't want to look weak.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23

The planets indicate it will be to your benefit to try to see yourself as others see you today.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Fate is about to give you an opportunity to prove yourself and if you are smart, you will take advantage.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec.

21 Don't let people who don't know what they are talking about rub you up the wrong way.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20

You like to check and double check before making a move. Be true to your nature today.

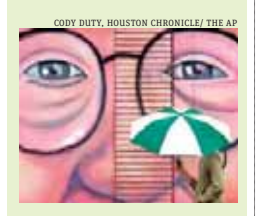
♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18

With Neptune, planet of illusion, about to move into the main financial area of your chart, it's not the time to be taking risks with money.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

Don't take too much for granted today. Stay alert if you want to stay on your feet. **SALLY BROMPTON**

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